

TERMS OF REFERENCE	
Purpose of consultancy:	Develop a comprehensive study on reproductive rights in Egypt.
Scope of work: (Description of services, activities, or outputs)	<p>Reproductive rights are a fundamental aspect of human rights, encompassing the right of individuals to make informed decisions about their reproductive health, including the right to access safe and affordable quality reproductive health services. In Egypt, reproductive rights are closely linked to broader issues of gender equality, population development, and human rights.</p> <p>Egypt has made significant strides in advancing reproductive rights through various national strategies and commitments. The 2014 Egyptian Constitution affirms the protection of these rights in several key articles. Article 18 guarantees the right to health and mandates the state to provide healthcare services, including reproductive health services, to all citizens. Additionally, Articles 11 and 53 emphasize the state's commitment to protecting women from all forms of violence and ensuring that women can balance family responsibilities with work requirements.</p> <p>The National Strategy for Population and Development (2023-2030) is not only focused on achieving quantitative targets but is primarily designed to enhance the well-being and development of Egyptian citizens. It emphasizes adaptive policies that address individual needs, linking social and economic systems with what people require to thrive. This strategy recognizes the pivotal role of reproductive rights in achieving broader development goals and improving all citizens' overall quality of life.</p> <p>Additionally, the National Human Rights Strategy (2021-2026), launched by the Egyptian government, includes a dedicated focus on women's rights and reproductive health. This strategy aligns with Egypt's commitment to advancing human rights, including the right to health, as outlined in the Egyptian Constitution. The strategy also aims to address gender-based violence, improve maternal health, and ensure access to reproductive health services for all women, particularly those in marginalized and underserved communities.</p> <p>Egypt is a signatory to several international conventions and agreements that uphold reproductive rights as a component of human rights. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): Egypt has committed to eliminating discrimination against women in all forms, including ensuring access to reproductive health services and safeguarding women's rights to make informed decisions regarding their reproductive health. - International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action: Egypt has endorsed the ICPD agenda, which emphasizes the importance of reproductive rights, gender equality, and

access to sexual and reproductive health services as essential components of sustainable development.

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Egypt is committed to achieving the SDGs, particularly Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 5 (Gender Equality), both of which highlight the importance of reproductive health and rights.

Reproductive rights are rooted in universally recognized human rights standards, including the right to health, the right to life, and the right to non-discrimination. These rights are emphasized in various international human rights treaties and declarations, which Egypt is obligated to uphold.

Despite significant progress, several challenges continue to impede the full realization of reproductive rights in Egypt. Gaps in existing laws and decrees remain a major obstacle, as some legislation and practices do not fully align with international human rights standards or adequately protect reproductive rights. For example, while laws may exist to promote access to reproductive health services, enforcement is often inconsistent.

Also, malpractices further exacerbate these challenges. Instances of bias, negligence, and lack of accountability among some healthcare providers can lead to substandard care, particularly for women in marginalized and underserved communities. These malpractices can include inadequate counselling on family planning options, coercive practices, and the failure to comply with standards of service provision including respect for patients' rights for confidentiality and autonomy.

Cultural and social norms also play a significant role in shaping attitudes toward reproductive health, often leading to stigma and discrimination against individuals seeking reproductive health services. This is particularly evident in rural and conservative areas, where traditional beliefs and misconceptions may discourage the use of contraception or limit women's decision-making power regarding their reproductive health.

Furthermore, geographic disparities in access to quality reproductive health services persist, with rural and remote areas often lacking the necessary infrastructure, supplies, and/ or trained personnel to provide comprehensive care. This inequity is compounded by economic barriers, which prevent individuals from accessing the services they need.

The recent strategies, such as the National Population and Development Strategy and the National Human Rights Strategy, represent important steps towards addressing these challenges. However, there is a need for ongoing efforts to ensure that these strategies are effectively implemented and that reproductive rights are fully integrated into national policies and programs.

The purpose of this consultancy is to conduct a comprehensive study on reproductive rights in Egypt. The study aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the current state of reproductive rights, including legal, social, and cultural

aspects, as well as access to reproductive health services and information. The findings will be used to inform policy recommendations and advocacy strategies to enhance the protection and promotion of reproductive rights in Egypt. This consultancy will focus on the following key objectives:

- Assess the Current Legal Framework (Legal aspect): Analyze the existing laws and regulations as well as decrees and work-level arrangements related to reproductive rights in Egypt, identifying any gaps or inconsistencies that may hinder the full realization of these rights.
- Assess Access to Services and information (Systems and Services aspect) in public and non-public service delivery systems: Assess the availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality of reproductive health services across different regions and populations in Egypt, with a focus on marginalized and vulnerable groups. This will also include analyzing on-ground practices that hinder accessibility to these essential services.
- Examine Social and Cultural Factors: Analyze the social and cultural norms that influence reproductive rights, including attitudes towards family planning, contraception, and access to reproductive health services and information.
- Provide Legal, Policy and Programmatic Recommendations: Based on the findings, develop actionable legal, policy, and programmatic recommendations to strengthen the protection and promotion of reproductive rights in Egypt, aligning with national and international commitments and international human rights standards.

The consultancy will result in a detailed report that will serve as a foundational document for ongoing and future efforts to advance reproductive rights in the country.

In the execution of this assignment, the consultants shall undertake the following tasks, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders:

Literature Review and Contextual Analysis:

- Conduct a thorough review of existing literature, reports, and studies related to reproductive rights in Egypt.
- Analyze the legal, social, and cultural context to provide a comprehensive background for the study.

Stakeholder Consultations and Expert Opinions:

- Engage with key stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, healthcare providers, and international partners, to gather insights and perspectives on reproductive rights.
- Facilitate interviews, focus groups, and workshops with field experts, as necessary to ensure a broad and inclusive consultation process.

	<p>Legal and Policy Analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and analyze relevant laws, regulations, decrees, and policy documents related to reproductive rights. - Identify gaps, inconsistencies, and areas for improvement in the legal and policy framework. <p>Data Analysis and Interpretation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze the data collected to identify key challenges and opportunities in the area of reproductive rights. - Synthesize findings into clear, actionable recommendations. <p>Development of Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the analysis, develop a set of actionable policy recommendations aimed at strengthening reproductive rights in Egypt. - Ensure that recommendations are aligned with national and international commitments and human rights standards. <p>Drafting and Finalizing the Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare a comprehensive report detailing the findings, analysis, and recommendations of the study. - Collaborate with stakeholders to review and finalize the report, incorporating feedback as needed. <p>Presentation and Dissemination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present the findings and recommendations to key stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society, and international partners. - Support the dissemination of the report through workshops, conferences, and other relevant platforms.
Duration and working schedule:	3 months from the contract signature
Submission and Proposal details	<p>It is recommended that a team or consortium of consultants submit a comprehensive proposal covering the various aspects of the study, including the Legal, Systems and Services, and Social and Cultural aspects. However, individual submissions focusing on specific areas are also welcome.</p> <p>The proposal should include both a technical and financial offer. The technical offer must demonstrate relevant previous experience and include updated CVs. The financial offer should provide a detailed breakdown of costs, including the number of working days and the daily rate.</p> <p>The deadline for submitting proposals is two weeks from the date of the announcement. Any proposals received after the deadline will not be</p>

	considered. Please note that NCHR and UNFPA may reach out to consultants for additional details if needed.
Deliverables details	<p>The consultants will be responsible for delivering:</p> <p>1- A detailed plan of action with a clear timeline that outlines key activities, milestones, and deliverables of the consultancy, in English.</p> <p>2- A final report and PowerPoint Presentation on reproductive rights in Egypt, in English.</p>
Supervisory arrangements:	The consultants will work closely with both the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) and UNFPA focal points for this assignment.
Required expertise, qualifications and competencies, including language requirements:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advanced Degree: Master's or higher in Public Health, Law, Human Rights, Social Sciences, or related field. 2. Extensive Experience: 7-10 years in research, policy analysis, or consultancy on reproductive rights, gender equality, or human rights. 3. Technical Expertise: Deep knowledge of reproductive rights, legal frameworks in Egypt, and international human rights standards, with strong research skills. 4. Strong Competencies: Excellent analytical, writing, and communication skills; ability to manage tasks effectively and work in diverse, multicultural environments. 5. Language Proficiency: Fluency in Arabic and English, with proven ability to produce high-quality documents in both languages.